

10/561182
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Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 01197.0261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Tomotaka HASHIMOTO et al.)
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: December 16, 2005) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
National Stage of International Application No.)
PCT/JP2004/008334 under 35 U.S.C. 371, for)
MEMBRANE CARTRIDGE, MEMBRANE)
SEPARATING DEVICE, AND MEMBRANE)
SEPARATING METHOD)

MAIL STOP PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-157846 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed.

2. Japanese Patent Publication No. 04-046170 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.
3. WIPO Publication No. WO 02/04101 A1 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.

Also enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing documents 2 and 3 and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 16, 2005

By: 
Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338

Enclosures
ASG/FPD/sci

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | <i>Application Number</i> | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | <i>Filing Date</i> | December 16, 2005 |
| | | | | <i>First Named Inventor</i> | Tomotaka HASHIMOTO et al. |
| | | | | <i>Art Unit</i> | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | <i>Examiner Name</i> | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 01197.0261 |

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.